Foreign visits by Prime Minister and other Ministers

1240. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the foreign countries visited by the United Front Government's Ministers including Prime Minister during the last six months till date;

(b) the number of bilateral agreements signed, country-wise, during the period indicating the field/sector of mutual interest and amount of economic aid given/ received by India, till date; and

(c) the number of Government officials and non-Government persons who accompanied the Ministers on each occasion and the total amount of expenditure incurred on above mentioned visits in rupees till date by Government during this period?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) t0 (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Training by Pakistan to Jammu & Kashmir Militants

1241. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise the issue at the UN and countries individually that Pakistan running over 70 camps to impart training to Jammu & Kashmir militants;

(b) whether Government have lodged a protest with Government of Pakistan in this regad; if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) While Government have apprised the international community of Pakistan's support and promotion of cross border terrorism directed against India, Government do not envisage any role for the UN in issues related to Jammu & Kashmir. Government believe that all issues between India and Pakistan should be resolved bilaterally under the Simla Agreement.

Government have urged Pakistan to give up its support to terrorism and subversion. Government remain vigilant about activities detrimental to national security and take all measures to safeguard it.

Chemical Weapons Convention

1242. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chemical Weapons Convention will come into effect on April 29, 1997 if 65 member-States sign it by that date;

(b) the number of member-States that have signed it so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that China, Pakistan, USA, Russia and the Arab countries have not signed the convention;

(d) if so, the reasons for signing the CWC last September; and

(e) the action Government propose to take if China and Pakistan do not sign it by 29th April, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes Sir. THE CWC will enter into force on 29th April, 1997 in accordance with article XXI of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CW C) which states that "the Convention shall enter into force 180 days after the date of the deposit of the 65th instrument of ratification". Hungary was the 65th country to deposit its instrument of ratification on 31st October 1996.

(b) 161 countries have signed the Convention and of these, 68 countries have ratified and deposited their instrument of ratification.

(c) USA, China, Pakistan & Russia have signed the CWC but are yet to

ratify it. A number of Arab countries, including Algeria, Bahrain, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia have signed the Convention. However, some Arab countries, notably Syria and Libya have not signed the Convention.

(d) and (e) India signed the Convention on 14th January, 1993, ratified it on 18th October, 1995 and deposited the instrument of ratification with the United Nations Secretary General on 3rd September, 1996, becoming the 62nd country to do so. India considers the CWC to be a model disarmament agreement as it is a global and non-discriminatory treaty and hopes that the CWC would be subscribed to universally. However, in the event that major signatories to the Treaty do not ratify and deposit their instruments of ratification, India would reserve the right to review the situation for an appropriate response.

Subsidy to Haj Pilgrims

1243. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Hajis has gone up from 20,000 in 1994 to 35,000 in 1995 and 55,000 in 1996, and will be 80,000 in 1997;

(b) the subsidy granted to the Haj pilgrimage in the last three years and proposed this year;

(c) the total foreign exchange given to Hajis over the last three years and proposed;

(d) whether it is fact that the all-party Public Accounts Committee had unanimously recommended an end to all subsidy for Haj Pilgrimage; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) The number of persons who performed Haj under the arrangements made by the Central Haj Committee stood at 35,685 for 1994, 30,505 for 1995 and 50,346 for 1996. The number for 1997 is expected to be 56,000.

(b) The subsidy granted to the Haj Pilgrimage in the last three years is as follows:—

1994	Rs. 24.69 crores
1995	Rs. 17.05 crores
1996	Rs. 42.02 crores

The quantum of subsidy for this year had not been decided.

(c) The total foreign exchange allowed over the last three years for those pilgrims who performed Haj through the Central Haj Committee is as follows:

1994	SR 12,54,69,723/-
1995	SR 14,09,04,630/-
1996	SR 23,72,60,098/-

The foreign exchange release anticipated for Haj 1997 is SR 26,29,48,750/- approximately.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

People's War Group Terrorism

1244. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Naxalite People's War Group continues to perpetuate terrorism in area bordering, the three States of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the incidents of hostility and terrorism indulged in by PWG indicating the number of persons killed and injured therein during the last three months; and

(c) the steps taken and are being taken to liquidate this group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir. People's War Group continues to indulge in violent acts in the bordering areas of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

(b) As per available reports, the following information is available: